



# "Pau hana" celebration marks separation of Division and District

Story by Alexander Kufel



Photo by Jim Dung

Board members of the POD/HED Ho'okupu Ohana pause momentarily before cutting the cakes commemorating the creation of separate organizations for POD and HED and the dissolution of the POD operating division. (L to R) Val Lee, PP-MM; Helen Stupplebeen, ED-CP; Wendy Mow, PP-MM; Dora Nishihara, DE; Tim Young, ED-CP; Bingo Chee, ET-C; David Lau, PM. Not pictured are Ron Pang, ED-S; Anna Tarrant, IM; and Jody Yoshishige, ED-DC.

## Reorganization aided by good housekeeping

In February, 143 boxes of records from five POD/HED offices went into temporary storage at the Schofield Barracks East Range Record Holding Area (RHA), said Anna Tarrant, IM, HED's records manager. In March, 85 boxes from DETS (Directorate of Engineering and Technical Services) joined them. In April, 152 boxes will be taken out of storage and disposed of. Although the reorganization of POD and

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In what may be the last of its kind, a combined POD and HED after-work "pau hana" party March 12 marked the end of an era as the two organizations celebrated the separation of division and district on the lawn outside the Logistics warehouse building 223 at Fort Shafter. What made this party an event, and newsworthy, is that it was the last time everyone got together essentially as one close-knit organization—as an operating Division. Deliberately unofficial, there were no speeches. According to its organizers, the Ho'okupu Ohana employee support association, efforts were made to keep sight of the fact that the same people who made up the former organization were now making up the new. With all reorganizational tasks and RIF actions completed, from mid-March on, POD and HED are two distinct entities.

"I'm continually impressed with the sense of togetherness—*ohana*—that seems to permeate this organization," said Col. (P) Carl A. Strock, POD Commander. "The turnout for the *pau hana* tells me that our people consider their service to be more than just a job. They show excellent teamwork during duty hours and seem to enjoy each others company after work as well. Everyone has been super during restructuring and there's no doubt in my mind that POD and HED will continue to work together on into the future. I also appreciate the atmosphere of the party in which my wife, Julie, was made to feel so welcome. The employees of POD and HED really are a wonderful group of

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**Work:** *My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it. I never did like to work, and I don't deny it. I'd rather read, tell stories, crack jokes, talk, laugh—anything but work.—Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president, 1809-65*

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people.”

HED Commander Lt. Col. Ralph H. Graves said that “other than a great excuse to have two cakes,” it was also a good occasion to remember that there is a need to preserve the “great working relationships” that already exist and to continue communicating with one another.

“Things at the party weren’t all that different as far as we’re concerned,” said David Lau, PM, chairman of the Ho’okupu Ohana employee support organization. “Written into our charter is that we are an organization for POD and HED, so we’ll continue pretty much as we were, just putting our energies wherever they’re needed.”

The Ohana purchased the food out of funds collected previously, and attendees paid \$2 each, which essentially went for door prizes. About 150 people signed up, so they were able to purchase about 20 door prizes valued at between \$10-20. The atmosphere was “quite friendly and informal,” said one Ohana board member. “Just like always.”

Lau said that besides the Board, about two dozen individuals from all different offices assisted in the preparations. Helping to spread “Aloha” at the party, Wendy Mow’s daughters: Kimberly-Ann, 9, and Chelsie-Ann, 6, assisted Lau in calling-out and handing-out door prizes that represented a whole gamut of practical items from thermos bottles to picnic coolers.



*POD Commander Col. (P) Carl A. Strock wends his way through the food line as Ho’okupu Ohana board member Dora Nishihara, DE, fills Mrs. Strock’s plate, leaving no doubt that “pau hana” parties are all about food. Photo by Jim Dung*

## Housekeeping...

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HED has something to do with the quantities of file folders currently being moved about, said Tarrant, without good records management the government would “drown in a sea of paperwork.”

“It isn’t until you begin to pack up records for storage that you realize how quickly things accumulate,” said Tarrant. “And, there’s more to it than just shoving things into boxes! Like records have to be with like records. The contents of a box need to be listed on the outside of the box. And, the contents have to match the SF-135 (Records Transmittal and Receipt) list of what’s there.”

Normally a monthly and quarterly procedure, records movement is a never-ending process. When DETS recently packed up everything prior to physically changing their offices, Adrienne Kahalepuna, ED-M, simplified the process tremendously by having the project engineers individually inventory the records going into each box. Once sealed, that iden-

tification on the outside of the box assists both in the retrieval and disposal of them at a later date.

Records become important the moment someone needs to refer to the information on them, said Tarrant. Over time, they often become the sole source of “institutional knowledge.” Some, such as those from Civil Works projects, are so significant that temporary storage is by-passed completely and they are sent directly to archives at the Federal Records Center in Seattle for permanent storage.

The records that are Schofield-bound to the RHA are currently from one to three years old and will repose in temporary storage for six to ten more years before they are destroyed. When the time comes later for storage and disposal, Tarrant will confirm “ownership” of the records together with their expiration dates. Come disposal time, white paper will be separated out for recycling and other materials will be incinerated.

“There are a lot of unsung heroes around,” said Tarrant. “Those boxes weigh about 40 pounds apiece, so moving them around and keeping things neat requires a strong back and tireless effort, and lots of help from the folks in Logistics!”